

Appl. No. 10/616,042
Amdt. dated February 17, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 2, 2006

REMARKS

Receipt of the Office action dated February 2, 2006 is hereby acknowledged. In that action the Examiner: 1) allowed claims 6-16, 19-31 and 35-53; 2) rejected claim 32 as allegedly anticipated by McDonald (U.S. Pat. No. 5,069,222); 3) rejected claim 33 as allegedly obvious over McDonald; 4) rejected claim 55 as allegedly obvious over McDonald in view of Derrick (U.S. Pat. No. 5,046,491); and 5) objected to claim 34 as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but otherwise allowable.

With this Response, Applicants amend claims 19, 34 and 50, and cancel claims 32-33 and 55. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. ALLOWED AND EFFECTIVELY ALLOWED CLAIMS

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 6-16, 19-31 and 35-53. With this Response, Applicants re-write claim 34 into independent form. It is noted that claim 34 already contained these limitations by virtue of its previous dependency, and thus these amendments are not narrowing amendments. Claims 19 and 50 are amended to correct spelling shortcomings, and not to define over any cited art. Thus, claims 6-16, 19-31 and 34-53 should be in a condition for allowance.

II. CLAIM CANCELLATIONS

With this Response, Applicants cancel claims 32-33 and 55 without prejudice to later asserting those claims, such as in a continuation application. With this cancellation, all the remaining claims should be in a condition for allowance.

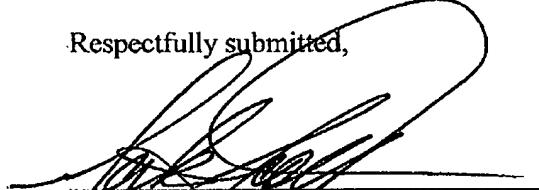
III. CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper.

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However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to the deposit account of Conley Rose, PC, Deposit Account No. 03-2769.

Respectfully submitted,



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